

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 04682

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: COE, PORG, GR, TU, CY

SUBJ: KARASEK ON COUNCIL OF EUROPE DISCUSSION OF HIS
CYPRUS REPORT

REFS: A) STRASBOURG 112; B) PARIS 15362

SUMMARY. THIS TELEGRAM GIVES KARASEK VERSION OF RECENT
COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) ACTION ON HIS REPORT ON CYPRUS AND
NOTES THAT IN KARASEK'S VIEW COE "QUASIUNANIMOUS" ADOPTION
OF RESOLUTION ENDORSING IN EFFECT RESUMPTION OF INTER-
COMMUNAL TALKS WAS PROMPTED LARGELY BY GROWING CONCERN
AMONG COE DEPUTIES OF WEAKENING EFFECT CYPRUS ISSUE IS
HAVING ON WESTERN SECURITY INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE.

1. ON MAY 19 EMBOFF DISCUSSED WITH AUSTRIAN PEOPLE'S PARTY
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY FRANZ KARASEK (PLEASE PROTECT AS
SOURCE) LATTER'S VERSION OF RECENT COE DISCUSSION AND ADOP-
TION OF RESOLUTION BY COE ON KARASEK REPORT ON SITUATION
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IN CYPRUS. KARASEK SAID GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER INITIALLY
PHONED HIM IN MIDDLE OF NIGHT WITH REQUEST THAT KARASEK
SUBMIT RESOLUTION TO COE ASKING FOR POSTPONEMENT OF ACTION
ON KARASEK REPORT UNTIL LATER THIS YEAR. IN SO DOING,
GREEK FONMIN UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE GREECE ATTRIBUTES TO
KEEPING PRESSURE ON TURKS BY PRECLUDING ANY COE DISCUSSION
WHICH MIGHT BE INTRPRETED AS ENDORSEMENT OF TURKISH PRO-

POSALS LOOKING TOWARD RENEWING CYPRUS COMMUNAL TALKS.

2. KARASEK SAID HE DECLINED TO SPONSOR RESOLUTION, EXPLAINING THAT HIS REPORT WAS FACTUAL ONE BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH ALL PARTIES AND ON ON-SPOT OBSERVATIONS AND THAT COE WAS, ACCORDING TO HIS SOUNDINGS, READY TO DEBATE AND ACT ON HIS REPORT. HE SUGGESTED THAT IF GREEKS WERE SERIOUS ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

TABLING POSTPONING RESOLUTION, THEY SHOULD ACT PROMPTLY AND HE OBSERVED THAT HE WAS SURE THEY COULD FIND SOMEONE TO PUT FORWARD RESOLUTION. KARASEK'S DESCRIPTION OF SCENARIO OF DEBATE ON HIS REPORT PRETTY MUCH FOLLOWED THAT CONTAINED IN REFTEL A.

3. KARASEK ATTRIBUTED OUTCOME OF DEBATE AND VOTE IN SUPPORT OF COE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IN EFFECT RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS TO TWO MAJOR FACTORS. FIRST, AND IN HIS VIEW MORE IMPORTANT, IS GROWING CONCERN IN WESTERN EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING THOSE OF SOCIALISTS, OF DEBILITATING EFFECT UNRESOLVED CYPRUS ISSUE IS HAVING ON WESTERN EUROPEAN SECURITY INTERESTS IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE. SPECIFICALLY, ACCORDING TO KARASEK, DECLINE IN TURKISH MILITARY READINESS IN FACE OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DECISION ON ARMS EMBARGO AND INCREASING DOUBTS IN TURKISH POLITICAL CIRCLES OF SHARED OR COMMON FOREIGN POLICY OR SECURITY CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERESTS WITH WESTERN EUROPE AND THE U.S. IS BEING VIEWED BY MORE AND MORE COE MEMBERS AS SERIOUS THREAT TO NATO'S ABILITY TO MEET ITS OVERALL DEFENSE COMMITMENTS.

4. SECOND FACTOR, KARASEK FELT, WAS INEPT HANDLING BY GREEK DELEGATION OF ISSUE AND, CONVERSELY, SMOOTH MANNER IN WHICH TURKS DEALT WITH SUBJECT. KARASEK VOLUNTEERED THAT EVEN IF GREEKS HAD BETTER ORCHESTRATED THEIR EFFORT, THEIR "UNREASONABLE ATTITUDE" IN REFUSING EVEN TO RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY TO LATEST TURKISH PROPOSALS, IN SPITE OF THEIR OBVIOUS SHORTCOMINGS, PROBABLY WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN SAME FINAL OUTCOME WITH LESSER MAJORITY.

5. KARASEK CONCLUDED, SOMEWHAT GLOOMILY, THAT GREEKS CONTINUE TO BASE THEIR HANDLING OF CYPRUS ISSUE ON ONE OPTION OF HOPE THAT U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ARMS EMBARGO WILL EXACT GREATER CONCESSIONS FROM TURKS, AN APPROACH WHICH THUS FAR, ACCORDING TO KARASEK, HAS PROVEN TO BE EPHEMERAL AND INCREASINGLY DAMAGING TO WEST'S SECURITY INTERESTS. WOLF

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